

Paseo Herencia is always fun and exciting to visit



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Massive winter storm brings snow, strong winds, frigid cold



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A youngster walks home from school in Minneapolis as snow falls from a winter storm hitting the Twin Cities, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

Multilingual education, a necessity for transforming education



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Luna Foundation:

"We need more volunteers. More volunteers mean more rescued dogs"



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Massive winter storm brings snow, strong winds, frigid cold

From Front

By **AMANCAI BIRABEN and JIM SALTER**

Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A brutal winter storm knocked out power in California, closed interstate highways from Arizona to Wyoming and prompted more than 1,200 flight cancellations Wednesday — and the worst won't be over for several days.

Few places were untouched by the wild weather, some at the opposite extreme.

Record highs were forecast from the mid-Atlantic states down through Florida, with some places expected to reach up to 40 degrees above normal.

The wintry mix was hitting hardest in the northern tier of the nation. Schools throughout the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wisconsin were called off.

Offices closed, as did the Minnesota Legislature. South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem shut down state executive branch offices in several parts of the state, and employees worked remotely.

Travel was difficult. Weather contributed to more than 1,200 canceled flights across the country by mid-morning, according to tracking service FlightAware. About one-third of those canceled flights — roughly 400 — were due to arrive or depart from the



A pedestrian makes their way across an intersection as snow falls in Ottawa, Ontario, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. In Wyoming, virtually every road was affected.

"A major winter storm and multi-day closures are likely on Interstates and secondary roads throughout Wyoming!" the state Transportation Department said on Facebook.

It wasn't much better in neighboring states.

"Sometimes it's physically impossible to keep up with Mother Nature," said North Dakota Highway Patrol Sgt. Wade Kadmas.

He warned those who venture out to dress appropriately. Often, when motorists get stranded, "They

don't have a winter jacket. They might be wearing shorts and flip-flops, just thinking they're going to get from point A to point B and nothing is going to go wrong," he said.

Kelly Cross has spent his entire 60 years in South Dakota, but even he tires of the wintry weather that often spills well into spring. Besides the regular snow shoveling at his Pierre store, K&C Western Wear, he's gone through pounds of salt to keep the walkway clear. The company of his terrier, Penny, makes the slog to work tolerable.

"She comes with me every day," Cross said.

Jeff Lea, spokesperson for the Metropolitan Airports Commission, which operates the Minneapolis airport, said most airlines canceled flights early, so travelers would know before heading to the airport.

"I think the airlines are trying to make sure that they can, looking at the bigger picture, make those cancellations so they can better respond after the storm and make a quicker recovery," Lea said.

Powerful winds were the biggest problem in California, toppling trees and power lines. By Wednesday morning, more than 109,000 customers were

without electricity, according to PowerOutage.us.

A 1-year-old child was critically injured when a redwood crashed onto a home in Boulder Creek, a community in the Santa Cruz Mountains south of San Francisco, KTVU reported. Chief Mark Bingham of the local fire protection district said crews had to cut up the tree to free the victim.

A blizzard warning was issued for the mountains of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, effective from 4 a.m. Thursday to 4 p.m. Saturday, the National Weather Service said.

"Nearly the entire population of CA will be able to see snow from some vantage point later this week if they look in the right direction (i.e., toward the highest hills in vicinity)," UCLA climate scientist Daniel Swain wrote on Twitter.

A more than 200-mile (320-kilometer) stretch of Interstate 40 from central Arizona to the New Mexico line closed due to snow, rain and wind gusts of up to 80 mph (129 kph). Thousands were without power in Arizona.

In the northern U.S. — a region accustomed to heavy snow — the snowfall could be historic. More than 20 inches (50.8 centimeters) may pile up in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin, the National Weather Service said. □



Attorney Eric Schnapper, left, talks with Beatriz Gonzalez, right, the mother of 23-year-old Nohemi Gonzalez, a student killed in the Paris terrorist attacks, and stepfather Jose Hernandez, second from right, in front of the Supreme Court, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023 in Washington, after the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Twitter v. Taamneh today which will decide whether social media companies can be sued for aiding and abetting a specific act of international terrorism when the platforms have hosted user content that expresses general support for the group behind the violence without referring to the specific terrorist act in question.

Associated Press

Supreme Court seems to favor tech giants in terror case

By **JESSICA GRESKO and MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court seemed skeptical Wednesday of a lawsuit trying to hold social media companies responsible for a terrorist attack at a Turkish nightclub that killed 39 people.

During arguments at the high court several justices underscored that there was no evidence linking Twitter, Facebook and Google directly to the 2017 attack on the Reina nightclub in Istanbul. The family of a man killed in the attack says the companies aided and abetted the attack because they assisted in the growth of the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for the attack. A lower court let the lawsuit go forward.

The court's disposition of Wednesday's case and a related one it heard a day earlier is important, particularly because the companies have been shielded from liability on the internet, allowing them to grow into the giants they are today.

If the court bars the lawsuit involving the attack in Turkey from going forward it could avoid a major ruling on the companies' legal immunity. That outcome would leave the current system in place, but also leave open the possibility that the justices could take up the issue again in a later case. □

Biden: Putin's suspension of U.S. arms treaty 'big mistake'

By AAMER MADHANI

Associated

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

President Joe Biden said Wednesday that Russian President Vladimir Putin made a "big mistake" by suspending his country's participation in the last remaining U.S.-Russia nuclear arms control treaty. The U.S. president was in Poland to reassure eastern flank NATO allies that the U.S. will remain by their sides amid the grinding Russian invasion of Ukraine. In his first comments since Putin's announcement Tuesday, Biden condemned the Russian decision to pull back from the treaty, known as New START. The move is expected to have an immediate impact on U.S. visibility into Russian nuclear activities, but the pact was already on life support following Moscow's cancellation late last year of talks that had been intended to salvage an agreement that both sides have accused the other of violating.

"It's a big mistake," Biden said. The president's comments came as he wrapped up a whirlwind, four-day visit to Poland and Ukraine with talks with leaders from the Bucharest



President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with the leaders of the Bucharest Nine, a group of nine countries that make up the eastern flank of NATO, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, in Warsaw.

Associated Press

Nine, a collection of nations in the most eastern parts of the NATO alliance that came together in response to Putin's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. He departed Poland Wednesday evening to return to Washington ahead of Friday's anniversary of the war's breakout.

The Bucharest Nine countries' anxieties have remained heightened as the

Ukraine war drags on, with many worrying that Putin could move to take military action against them next if he's successful in Ukraine. The alliance includes Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

"You're the frontlines of our collective defense," Biden said Wednesday of the group. "And you know,

better than anyone, what's at stake in this conflict? Not just for Ukraine, but for the freedom of democracies throughout Europe and around the world."

He pledged that NATO's mutual-defense pact is "sacred" and that "we will defend literally every inch of NATO." A day earlier at the foot of Warsaw's Royal Castle to mark the somber milestone of the

year-old Russian invasion, Biden warned that Russian aggression, if unchecked, wouldn't stop at Ukraine's borders. "Appetites of the autocrat cannot be appeased," he said. "They must be opposed."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, the right-wing populist leader who argued last week that the European Union is partly to blame for prolonging Russia's war in Ukraine, has balked at sanctions on Moscow and arming Kyiv. Orbán was skipping the meeting with Biden, and President Katalin Novák was attending in his stead.

Still, Klaus Iohannis, the president of Romania, insisted that "The B9 is stronger than ever."

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who was attending the meeting, said, "We don't know when the war will end, but when it does, we need to ensure that history does not repeat itself."

Pointing to past Russian actions in Georgia and Ukraine, he added, "We cannot allow Russia to continue to chip away at European security. We must break the cycle of Russian aggression." □

Air Force expands cancer review of nuclear missile personnel

By TARA COPP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Air Force's review of cancers among its nuclear missile corps will include all personnel who worked on, guarded, supported or operated the nation's ground-based warheads, Air Force Global Strike Command announced Wednesday.

Nine officers who had worked as missileers the airmen who launch the warheads from underground silos and control centers at Montana's Malmstrom Air Force Base were diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of blood cancer, Lt. Col. Daniel Sebeck of U.S. Space Force reported last month in a briefing obtained by

The Associated Press. Since that briefing, more missileers and missile support crew have come forward to the AP and other media outlets to report they, too, have been diagnosed with either non-Hodgkin lymphoma or other types of cancers.

The Air Force review will extend beyond Malmstrom to include F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming and Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. Together the three bases operate 450 silos that house the nation's arsenal of ground-based nuclear warheads carried by Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Malmstrom was one of the sensitive military locations over which a suspected

Chinese spy balloon loitered as it transited the United States earlier this month.

The "Missile Community Cancer Study," to be conducted by the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, will look at all ICBM wings and all Air Force personnel who support the ICBM mission.

It will review environmental factors at the missile bases and silos, and examine "the possibility of clusters of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma" among missileers and those who maintained, guarded and supported the bases, the head of Air Force Global Strike Command, Gen. Thomas Bussiere, said in a statement.

The review will look at ac-



Pallets of 155 mm shells ultimately bound for Ukraine are loaded by the 436th Aerial Port Squadron, April 29, 2022, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. As the war rages on in Ukraine, the United States is doing more than supporting an ally.

Associated Press

five-duty medical data and the Department of Veterans Affairs' cancer registry data, mortality data and public cancer registries.

Col. Lee Williams, the command's surgeon general, said there was not yet a timeline for the study. □

Marine commission: Whale deaths not linked to wind prep work

By **WAYNE PARRY**

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— An independent scientific agency that advises the federal government on policies that could impact marine mammals said there is no evidence linking site preparation work for offshore wind farms with a number of whale deaths along the U.S. East Coast. In a statement released Tuesday, the Marine Mammal Commission became the third federal agency to reject a link between the deaths and the offshore wind energy industry, despite a growing narrative among offshore wind opponents that probing the ocean floor to prepare for wind turbine projects is killing whales.

Last month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management said there is no evidence linking offshore wind development with whale deaths.

The commission said 16 humpback whales and at least one critically endangered North Atlantic right whale have washed ashore dead on the East Coast this winter.

"Despite several reports in



The body of a humpback whale lies on a beach in Brigantine N.J. after it washed ashore on Jan. 13, 2023.

the media, there is no evidence to link these strandings to offshore wind energy development," the commission said.

The deaths are part of an "unusual mortality event" involving humpback whales declared by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2016.

The agency said 40% of the whales that could be examined at necropsy,

or post-mortem, showed evidence of a ship strike or entanglement with fishing gear.

Others were floating at sea or otherwise inaccessible. The commission said the number of whale strandings is not unusual. Ten or more humpback whales have stranded each year since 2016, with a high of 34 in 2017, it added.

It said the number of whales

in the northeast is growing, something other agencies have noted as well. As the population grows, more whales are choosing to spend the winter in the northeast, where they are more vulnerable to being struck by ships or entangled in fishing gear, instead of migrating to warmer areas. On Feb. 12, a dead North Atlantic right whale washed ashore in Virginia

Associated Press

Beach, Virginia. It was a 20-year-old, 43-foot male.

A necropsy was conducted by numerous state and city agencies and a private stranding response program, determining that the whale suffered a catastrophic blunt force traumatic injury, impacting its spine. The injuries, which are consistent with those often found in animals that have been struck by ships, included multiple vertebral fractures that would have resulted in death shortly after the injury.

Today, there are fewer than 350 North Atlantic right whales in existence, with fewer than 95 mature females in the population. An unusual mortality event was declared for these animals in 2017.

The commission's report comes as offshore wind opponents are pushing for investigations into whether offshore wind is killing whales, even though the federal government has been investigating whale deaths since 2016.

Earlier this week, two Republican Congressmen from New Jersey announced legislation aimed at investigating, pausing or halting offshore wind projects. □

Malcolm X's daughter to sue CIA and FBI for wrongful death



Ilyasah Shabazz, a daughter of Malcolm X, second from right, speaks during a news conference at the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The family of slain civil rights leader Malcolm X marked on Tuesday the anniversary of his 1965 assassination by

announcing plans to sue agencies including the CIA, FBI, the New York Police Department and others for \$100 million, accus-

ing them of playing a role in his death.

Two of his daughters, Ilyasah Shabazz and Qubilah Shabazz, were joined by attorney Ben Crump at a news conference at the site of the former Audubon Ballroom in upper Manhattan, where Malcolm X was fatally shot as a crowd gathered to hear him speak on Feb. 21, 1965.

For decades questions have circulated over who was responsible for his death.

Three men were convicted, but two were exonerated in 2021 after a renewed investigation into the cases against them showed the evidence used to gain convictions was shaky and that authorities had held

back some information.

Ilyasah Shabazz, the co-administrator of her father's estate, filed notices of claim, which is the first step in the process, saying that the agencies "conspired with each other and with other individuals and acted, and failed to act, in such a way as to bring about the wrongful death of Malcolm X."

"For years our family has fought for the truth to come to light," she said at the news conference. "We want justice served for our father."

Emails seeking comment were sent to the CIA, FBI, Department of Justice and New York City's legal department. The DOJ and NYPD declined to com-

ment. Crump noted the anniversary date and said that ever since then, "there has been speculation as to who was involved in the assassination of Malcolm X." He cited the 2021 exonerations and said that government agencies including the Manhattan district attorney, the NYPD and the FBI "had factual evidence, exculpatory evidence that they fraudulently concealed from the men who were wrongfully convicted for the assassination of Malcolm X."

Asked if he believes government agencies conspired to assassinate Malcolm, Crump said, "That is what we are alleging, yes. They infiltrated many civil rights organizations." □

10 Palestinians killed, scores hurt in Israel West Bank raid

By AREF TUFAHA and
JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops on Wednesday entered a major Palestinian city in the occupied West Bank in a rare, day-time arrest operation, triggering fighting that killed at least 10 Palestinians and wounded scores of others. The raid, which reduced a building to rubble and left a series of shops riddled with bullets, was one of the bloodiest battles in nearly a year of fighting in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Two men, ages 72 and 61, were among the dead, and 102 people were wounded, Palestinian officials said.

The Israeli operation, coupled with the high death toll, raised the prospect of further bloodshed. A similar raid last month was followed by a deadly Palestinian attack outside a Jerusalem synagogue, and the Hamas militant group warned that "its patience is running out."

In a move that could further raise tensions, Israel's West Bank settler organization said that Israeli officials had approved construction of nearly 2,000 new homes in West Bank settlements. The Israeli government did not immediately confirm the decision, which came just two days after the U.N. Security Council approved a watered-down statement opposing settlement construction. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Wednesday that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory "is at its most combustible in years," calling Israel's operation in Nablus that left 10 Palestinians dead and over 80 injured "deeply concerning." He urged stepped-up efforts to prevent the further escalation of violence, reduce tensions and restore calm.

The Israeli military said it entered Nablus on Wednesday to arrest three wanted militants suspected in previ-



A Palestinian gestures to Israeli military vehicles during clashes in the West Bank city of Nablus, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023.

ous shooting attacks in the West Bank, including the killing of an Israeli soldier last fall.

The military usually conducts raids at night in what it says is a tactic meant to reduce the risk of civilian casualties. It said it took advantage of a rare window of opportunity after intelligence services tracked down the men in a hideout and warned they posed an imminent threat.

The army said it surrounded the building and asked the men to surrender, but instead they opened fire. When one of the militants tried to flee the building, he was shot and killed, said Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, a military spokesman. The military then fired missiles at the house, he added, leaving it in ruins and killing the other two men.

A recently formed armed group based in the Old City of Nablus called the Lion's Den, which has surged in prominence over the past months, confirmed the militants were its members.

During the raid, the military said armed men in the city "shot heavily toward the forces," which responded with live fire. It said others hurled rocks and explosives at the troops. The military

released a video taken from inside an armored vehicle as crowds of Palestinian youths pelt it with stones. There were no Israeli casualties.

Time-stamped security footage widely shared online appeared to show two unarmed young men running down a street. Gunshots are heard, and both fall to the ground, with one's hat flying off his head. Both bodies remained still. Hecht called the video "problematic," and said the military was looking into it.

In the Old City of Nablus, people stared at the rubble that had been the large home in the centuries-old marketplace. From one end to the other, shops were riddled with bullets. Parked cars were crushed. Blood stained the cement ruins. Furniture from the destroyed home was scattered among mounds of debris.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said 102 people were wounded, and six of them were in critical condition. Various Palestinian militant groups claimed six of the dead including the three from Lion's Den targeted in the raid as members. But two men, ages 72 and

61, were also killed. There was no immediate word on whether the others belonged to armed groups. Last month, Israeli troops killed 10 people in a similar raid in the northern West Bank. The following day, a lone Palestinian gunman opened fire near a synagogue in an east Jerusalem settlement, killing seven people.

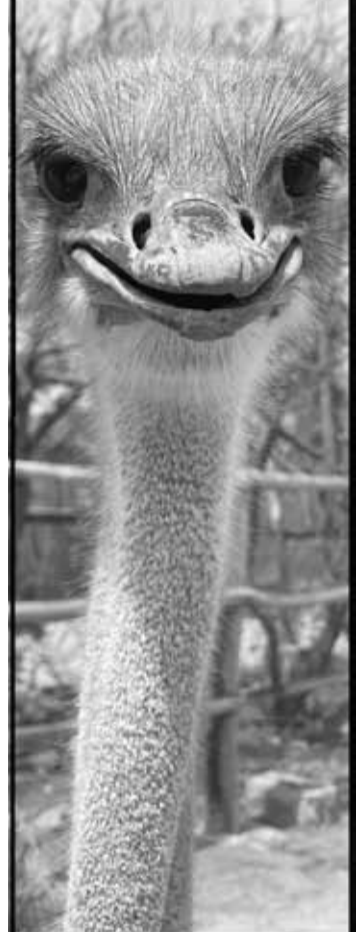
Days later, five Palestinian militants were killed in an Israeli arrest raid elsewhere in the West Bank.

That was followed by a Palestinian car ramming that killed three Israelis, including two young brothers, in Jerusalem.

The fighting comes at a sensitive time, less than two months after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new hard-line government took office. The government is dominated by ultranationalists who have pushed for tougher action against Palestinian militants. Israeli media have quoted top security officials as expressing concern that this could lead to even more violence. Israeli police announced they were beefing up forces and going on heightened alert in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. □

Associated Press

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Philippines eyes South China Sea patrols with U.S., Australia

By **JIM GOMEZ** and **EDNA TARIGAN**
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

The Philippines is in talks with the United States as well as Australia on future joint patrols in the South China Sea, where China's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters are causing concern, top defense officials in the three nations said Wednesday.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin called his Philippine counterpart, Carlito Galvez Jr., to reiterate Washington's support and commitment to help defend its oldest treaty ally in Asia after a Chinese coast guard aimed a military-grade laser at a Philippine patrol vessel near a disputed shoal.

The Feb. 6 incident off Second Thomas Shoal briefly blinded some of the Filipino crew and prompted Manila to file a strongly worded diplomatic protest. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. also summoned China's ambassador to express his concern.

"The two leaders discussed proposals to deepen operational cooperation and



In this photo provided by the Department of National Defense, Defense Communications Service, Philippines Defense Chief Carlito Galvez Jr., left, walks with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Richard Marles, right, during his visit at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Philippines on Wednesday Feb. 22, 2023.

enhance the United States and the Philippines' shared security, including the recent decision to resume combined maritime activities in the South China Sea," according to details of the phone conversation provided by Pentagon press secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder. During Austin's visit to Manila this month, Galvez and U.S. officials

had said the allies agreed to carry out joint patrols. Separately, Galvez and visiting Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said in a news conference on Wednesday that they were looking at Australian and Philippine forces possibly carrying out their joint patrols in the busy waterway. As countries asserting the rule of law, including the

1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, in the South China Sea, where a bulk of Australia's trade traverses, "we did talk today about the possibility of exploring joint patrols," Marles said, without elaborating. Australian and Philippine forces have undertaken joint patrols off the southern Philippines in the past to counter terrorist threats,

Galvez said, and added, "We can do it again."

Aside from the United States, Australia is the only other country that struck a defense agreement with the Philippines for joint combat exercises in the country. The Philippine Constitution prohibits the permanent basing of foreign troops and their involvement in local combat.

Austin announced after meeting Marcos on Feb. 2 that the Philippines had approved an expanded U.S. military presence by allowing rotating batches of U.S. forces to stay in four more Philippine military camps, in addition to five others.

It was the latest move by the Biden administration to strengthen an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan.

Austin reaffirmed in his talk with Galvez on Wednesday the U.S. Defense Department's "commitment to bolstering the Philippines' defense capabilities and capacity to resist coercion as the allies develop a security-sector assistance roadmap." □

Associated Press

Nearly 1 million asylum requests in the EU in 2022

By **RENATA BRITO**
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

Nearly 1 million people applied for international protection in the European Union in 2022, according to data published Wednesday, bringing the number of asylum requests to a level not seen since the refugee crisis of 2015-2016.

The EU agency for asylum said 966,000 asylum applications were made in the 27 EU countries as well as in Norway and Switzerland last year, up 50% from 2021. That doesn't include more than 4 million Ukrainian refugees who were granted temporary protection in the EU, a special mechanism activated to avoid collaps-

ing already backlogged asylum systems.

The European agency linked the increase to continuing easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions, increasing food insecurity and conflicts in many parts of the world. Though most asylum-seekers enter the EU legally, mainly by plane with travel visas, some also crossed the EU's land and sea borders without permission, mainly through the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean.

After more than a decade of war and economic collapse in their country, Syrians continued to be the top nationality of asylum-seekers in Europe with more than 130,000 applications.

They were followed closely by Afghans fleeing the spiraling security, humanitarian and financial troubles that followed the Taliban takeover in August 2021, with 129,000 requests.

Coming in third were applicants from Turkey who doubled in numbers with 55,000 requests. Soaring inflation and "democratic backsliding" were among the factors believed to have caused the increase, the agency said.

In many places, reception centers are overwhelmed, leaving asylum-seekers in the streets.

The recent earthquake that killed nearly 46,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless in Turkey



Two men share a meal in a makeshift tent camp outside the Petit Chateau reception center in Brussels, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.

Associated Press

and Syria has raised fears of a potential surge in irregular border crossings into Greece. Germany offered earlier this month to temporarily ease visa restrictions to some quake survivors while Spain promised to resettle a small group of 100

vulnerable Syrian refugees from Turkey, which is home to 4 million refugees.

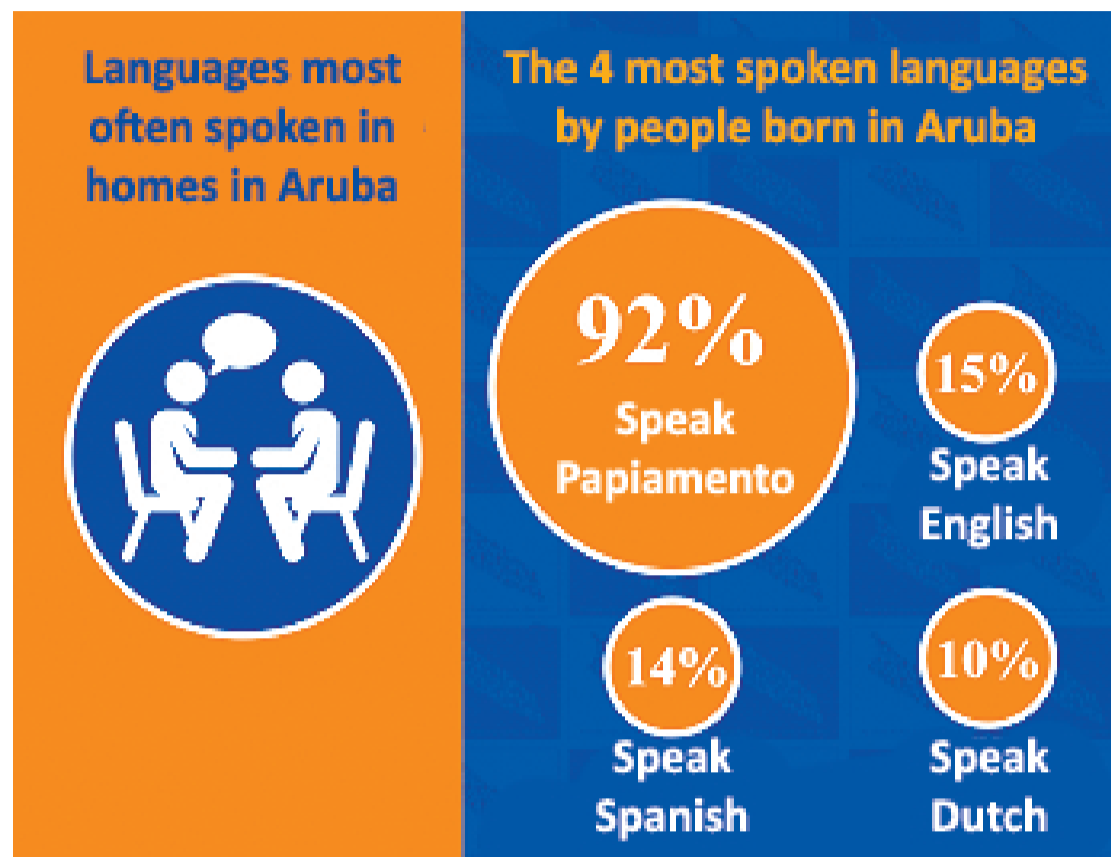
Venezuelans, Colombians, Bangladeshis and Georgians applied for asylum in record numbers last year, as did Moroccans, Tunisians and Egyptians. □

In commemoration of International Mother Language Day: Multilingual education, a necessity for transforming education

(Oranjestad)—Multilingualism is an essential factor of communication between the public and a multilateral diplomatic facilitator; something extremely important for the United Nations who favors dialogue, tolerance and understanding. Multilingualism ensures effective participation and mayor transparency with efficiency in better results.

On February 21st, the world celebrated International Mother Language Day. For this day, Unesco celebrates each year with a different theme as to highlight the importance of a mother tongue within communities. According to the organization, 40% of the world's population does not receive an education in a language they speak and understand. Nevertheless, thanks to the efforts made for the importance of mother languages, progress is being made in terms of multilingual education, especially for children. Furthermore, the commitment to further develop multilingualism in the public sector is becoming more popular. Language and multilingualism can promote inclusion. This correlates with one of the Sustainable Development Goals from the UN, which states that no one must be left behind. Unesco promotes multilingual education based on mother languages. This is a type of education that begins in the native tongue of the student. Later, other languages are gradually introduced. This method ensures that students can fill the gap that foreign languages may leave behind in the home. Students would be able to discover the school's atmosphere in a familiar language and therefore learn better.

It is for this reason that Unesco calls on other countries to apply an multilingual education policy. The global database on Inequality in Education shows that on a global scale, children who learn their mother lan-



guage at home are 30% more likely to understand what they read at the end of their primary education compared to those who do not use their mother language as the language of instruction.

Audrey Azoulay, general director at Unesco points out that "to help fight the current crisis of misunderstanding, diversity in linguistics must also be preserved, because this is an essential cultural aspect. Unesco are asking governments to adopt plurilingual education based on mother languages for the first few years a child's educational career. We know it works; there is empirical evidence that shows that this does indeed help kids learn better."

Multilingualism contributes to the development of inclusive societies, which allow different cultures to exist side by side. The theme for this year's International Mother Language Day is "Multilingual Education, a necessity for transforming education" and this adheres to the recommendations made during the Transforming Education Summit, where education for and languages of indigenous populations were

highlighted.

Unesco also believes in the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity for sustainable societies. In regards to its mandate to promote peace, the organization works to preserve cultural and language differences, which can lead to tolerance and respect for each other.

The multilingual and multicultural society exists because of their languages, which is transmits and preserve awareness and cultural tradition in a sustainable way. On average, a language goes extinct every 2 weeks, taking with it the cultural and intellectual patrimony.

The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was started by Bangladesh in 1999 during the Unesco General Conference. By the year 2000, this day was celebrated around the world.

For this day, Unesco also reminds the world the importance of preserving indigenous languages. At least 40% of over 6700 languages that are spoken around the world are at risk of extinction, because of the lack of preservation.

For this reason, Unesco leads the project called

The Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032, which includes an 10-year-long initiative to garner attention around the world on the loss of indigenous languages and the urgency to preserve, revitalize and celebrate them.

On Aruba, for example, the Papiamentu language is very valuable. It has been noted a few times that people within the community underestimate the value of the language, especially when a young person moves to a foreign country to pursue a higher education for which they will no

longer speak their native tongue.

However, one cannot deny their native language; one will always think in their native tongue. This is why it is very important that the language is celebrated and preserved, so that we can promote, respect and take our language with us everywhere we go.

Aruba is a small island and its dependence on tourism is very important. This is a perfect opportunity to promote Papiamentu to foreign visitors, so that they may appreciate the richness and complexity of the language.

According to the Central Bureau for Statistics Aruba (CBS) in preparations for Census 2020, they have organized a prototypical Census survey in 2019, where they discovered that Papiamentu is the dominant language on the island, followed by Spanish, English and lastly Dutch.

Aruba should be thankful to the pioneers that have maintained their mission to preserve Papiamentu where many people say that the language disturbs the children's education. Seeing as Papiamentu is considered an official language nowadays, we must value this as a symbol of the Aruban identity. □



LOCAL



Paseo Herencia is always fun and exciting to visit



NOORD— Paseo Herencia offers a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options in an outdoor center located in the heart of Palm Beach – walking distance from the high-rise hotels.

Shopping

The Paseo Herencia stores offer a great collection in beach wear, clothing, perfume, shoes, jewelry, souvenirs and much more. Pamper yourself by visiting Maggy's and enjoy their salon services and shop for your favorite beauty products. Aruba Aloe has that perfect gift to bring back home, all made with natural ingredients. Other brand favorites are Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike store, Pandora and many more.

Restaurants

Start with a breakfast meal at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina Colada (pineapples in coconut rum), Bourbon Apple, Brandy Apricot, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another option is Seabarita offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open for lunch & dinner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the larg-



est wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba located in the center of the Plaza. Open till late.

VIP Cinema

Visit the one-of-a-kind Caribbean Cinemas VIP on the second floor of Paseo Herencia and enjoy your favorite movies in the most comfortable reclining seats with high quality screens with the latest projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound and not to forget their delicious buttery bag of popcorn.

Entertainment

Catch live shows from Mon-

day to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros.

Parking up to two hours is free when shopping, dining or catching a movie at Paseo Herencia. Just present your purchase receipt at our parking cashier.

To learn more about our specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website www.paseoherencia.com. □

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Renaissance Ocean Suites

ORANJESTAD - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ms. Olga Ruiz had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".



naissance Ocean Suites bestowed the certification of the Emerald Ambassadors. The honorees were presented with the Emerald Ambassador Certificate and memorable gifts.

and the hotel staff Great national infrastructure Great water: drinking and recreational Great beaches Great safety

The honorees were Francis Passenaut, resident of New York, United States and Robert sorsaia also resident of New York, United States. They have been honored as Emerald Ambassadors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of Re-

On behalf of the Aruba Government, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Passenaut and Mr. Sorsaia, both of whom are Carnival enthusiasts. Thank you for making Aruba your favored vacation destination for so many years. We are so honored to have had such wonderful visitors over the years! Aruba is without a doubt your home away from home!

Top reason for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

Mr. Passenaut & Mr. Sorsaia reasons: Great people: the locals



beauty & THE BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Geniya and her family of 6 from Kansas, USA**, where they were seen enjoying the sandy beaches of Aruba. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

Alhambra
 CASINO AND SHOPS
casinoalhambra.com

History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fishermen is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Sa-

vaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.



Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare

all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known

in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



Luna Foundation: “We need more volunteers. More volunteers mean more rescued dogs”

(Oranjestad) — From the time she arrives on the property at 8am up to 6pm, Zoey is still seen taking care of her sanctuary, making sure the dogs and animals are getting enough care. The Luna Foundation is a well-known organization on the island for its beautiful work and dedication for mistreated or abandoned dogs. In an interview with Bon Dia Aruba, founder and president of the Luna Foundation, Zoey Konijn, shared how the foundation is currently running and what is in store for this year.



Konijn expressed that this year started with an expansion of the sanctuary. The property expanded and the goal of this was to finally construct the retirement home for old dogs, and a yard for the puppies to play it.

She also remarked that there has been a hospital on the property since last year, but which only became active this year. This hospital is only meant for the dogs on the property.

“If they ever get sick, we don’t need to take them to the vet, because we have our hospital. The only problem is we don’t have a stay-in veterinarian, but the local vet comes to the hos-

pital when needed,” she indicated.

She explained that they also have a nursery for dogs in labor. The Luna Foundation does not actually pick up pregnant dogs from the streets; they mostly only pick up dogs that have been abused by their owner. However, they do see pregnant dogs roam the streets sometimes, and they help. Their nursery has

three cages where the dogs can peacefully give birth.

“The plan for this year is to start building the retirement home for the older dogs, and to make sure we take in more puppies, because other organizations are out of space. We want to help where we can,” Konijn expressed.

To achieve this though, they need volunteers. The topic of volunteers remains a problem and Konijn highlights that many people ask for help but no one offers help to the organization that are in need of more assistance with the dogs. “More volunteers mean more rescued dogs.”

The Luna Foundation currently houses 100 dogs, and Konijn says that she is on the property every day, with others or even alone. “It’s a lot of work. I’m not complaining though, I love my work, but it’s not easy. The more volunteers we can get to help us in here, the more dogs we can help out there,” she expressed.

In terms of funding, the

foundation has been receiving donations from Renaissance Marketplace for two consecutive years now. Konijn explained that they work every day, from 6pm to 10pm, and the funds they collected from kids, parents and even tourists all go to the foundation.

“We work hard for this, and Arubans showed up. The island came together and showed us their support for our work, and with that fund, we can make the property even bigger,” she indicated.

The Luna Foundation is one of the 5 foundations that have joined forced to cre-

ate the AWAA foundation. The task of the Luna Foundation is to provide education. This includes going to neighborhoods and schools to education the public on how to handle their pets.

Konijn also pointed out that they need volunteers for this task too, a problem that cannot be swept under the rug after one week-end of volunteering events. “When Aruba Doet takes place, everyone is willing to help, but the foundation needs help all year round, not just that one week-end. The more volunteers we have, the more the foundation can do,” she added. □





Man Proposes, God Disposes

We regret to announce the peaceful passing away on Tuesday February 14th, 2023, of our beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, uncle, brother-in-law and friend.

Rudolf Edwin Offringa.
Sunrise: March 19th 1956 in Den Helder, The Netherlands
Sunset: February 14th 2023 in Aruba, Dutch West Indies

Wife: Esther Williams
Son: Quincy Amos Offringa & wife Nienke Offringa-Luttikhold
Daughter: Sarah-Quita Najive Offringa
Granddaughter : Yarah Celine-Luz Offringa

Brothers: Danny Offringa & Anja Offringa-Punt
 Pieter Offringa & Linda Offringa Lo-Fo-sang

Sister-in-laws:
 Desiana Peeters-Williams & Harry Peeters
 Elaine Williams
 Ruth Williams
 Natasha Williams-Phatela & Thabang Phatela

Nephew: Jurriaan
Nieces: Sanne, Eva & Anne-Fleur in The Netherlands
 Sandy, Chandra & Mandy in Saint Martin
 Allyshanee in The Netherlands
 Itumeleng, Dineo & Senate in Namibia
Caretaker: Adriana Castrillon

Rud modeled love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Condolences at Aurora Funeral Home:
 on Thursday, February 23rd at 6pm-9pm
 Condolences and funeral service on Friday February 24th at 2pm-4pm followed by burial at Sabana Basora Cemetery.

Livestreaming Facebook - Obituary Aruba

CROSSWORD

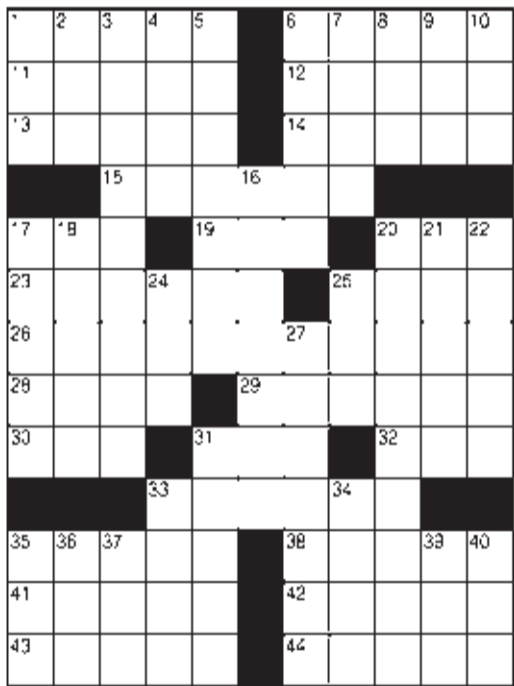
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 42 Patriot
 - 1 Impressed greatly
 - 6 Foxx of "Ray"
 - 11 Cartoon genre
 - 12 Undermine
 - 13 Jeans material
 - 14 Bar seat
 - 15 Formal
 - 17 Big D player
 - 19 Pub pint
 - 20 Kids' card game
 - 23 Galahad's mother
 - 25 Prudent
 - 26 They help to develop breathing capacity
 - 28 Preceding nights
 - 29 Frozen expense
 - 30 — Moines
 - 31 Martini base
 - 32 Claire of "The Crown"
 - 33 Second-largest nation
 - 35 Yellow gem
 - 38 Character found in kids' books
 - 41 Not dozing
- DOWN**
- 1 Gum mass
 - 2 Low digit
 - 3 Rooftop turners
 - 4 Mideast ruler
 - 5 Lowers
 - 6 Track great
 - 7 Pretentious
 - 8 Cattle call
 - 9 Wedding words
 - 10 Twisty fish
 - 16 Didn't get up early
 - 17 Imitated a kitten
 - 18 Full of energy
 - 20 Sources of sudden wealth
 - 21 The Jetsons' dog
 - 22 Utter over
 - 24 Passport, license, etc.
 - 25 Victory
 - 27 Out of control
 - 31 Peered
 - 33 Soap unit
 - 34 Secluded spot
 - 35 Letter after sigma
 - 36 Possess
 - 37 Pussy foot
 - 39 Bear abode
 - 40 Lennon's love



Yesterday's answer

- 17 Imitated a kitten
- 18 Full of energy
- 20 Sources of sudden wealth
- 21 The Jetsons' dog
- 22 Utter over
- 24 Passport, license, etc.
- 25 Victory
- 27 Out of control
- 31 Peered
- 33 Soap unit
- 34 Secluded spot
- 35 Letter after sigma
- 36 Possess
- 37 Pussy foot
- 39 Bear abode
- 40 Lennon's love



2-23

AXYDI BAAXR
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

HP HE MLMKHWJ SOMP GYZ
DMW MDDYLQAHEO HI GYZ RY
WYP DMUC SOY JCPE POC
DUCRHP — O MUUG E.
PUZLMW

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS EASIER TO DO A JOB RIGHT THAN TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU DIDN'T.
MARTIN VAN BUREN

How credit scores are evolving to improve access to credit



This Aug. 11, 2019 file photo shows Visa credit cards in New Orleans. With interest rates rising, the cost of borrowing is going up.

Associated Press

By CORA LEWIS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A low-credit score can hurt your ability to take out a loan, secure a good interest rate, or increase the spending limit on your credit card. Some reasons for a low score are out of your control such as unexpected medical debt or a lack of credit history. Credit rating agencies are working to improve access to credit by giving people more time to pay medical bills before the debt appears in reports, and by removing other debt completely. They're also making it easier to count rent, utility payments, and other recurring bills a boon for those who need credit the most.

Here's what to know:

WHAT IS A CREDIT SCORE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Put simply, a credit score is a formula that lenders use to decide how likely you are to pay back a loan. If you're considered a risky bet, you will pay more to borrow or may not be able to borrow at all.

The factors that go into calculating your score are complicated, and advocates say it's a positive that ratings agencies have started making it easier for consumers to prove that they'll be able to pay back money they borrow. It's especially important for so-called "thin file" consumers those with a lack of extensive credit history, who are often younger or lower income.

"I do see that efforts are being made in order to equalize the credit score," said Rosalyn Glenn, a financial advisor at Prudential who focuses on expanding financial access. "For instance, adding rental payments to credit reports, because there is a segment of the population that rents and does not own. That's exciting because the score can give them an opportunity for better rates on things like insurance and loans. I do believe progress is being made there."

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MEDICAL DEBT?

After conducting industry

research during the pandemic, the three most-used credit rating agencies found that consumers with medical expenses were just as likely to be credit-worthy as those without. Effective July of last year, paid medical collection debt is no longer included on consumer credit reports, and the time period before unpaid medical collection debt appears is now a year, up from six months. □

Classifieds

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Price : 1 BR \$ 15 K
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Eagle Beach
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Property Land
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3500 m2
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Classifieds

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Dutch Village

Eagle Beach
Studio WK # 12 room #33
30 weeks remain
Price :\$7 K
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Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
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Renaissance Ocean Suites

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House for sale

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Casa Del Mar 2BR/2B:

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Week 5/Unit 1315 (20k);
Week 8/Unit 1113 (19k);
Week 8/Unit 1409 (19k);
Week 10/Unit 1207 (17k);
Week 13/Unit 1509 (14k);
Week 14/Unit 1308 (14k); and,
Week 15/Unit 1217 (10k).
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US(Call/Text): (860)992-3890

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Condo for sale

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House For sale

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House for sale

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Divi Village

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Divi Village

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10 weeks remain on the contract
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San Nicolas:
Aloe Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
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Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

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Eugene Levy, very gingerly, explores world for travel show

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There are celebrities with TV travel shows who just can't wait to show you where they came from or push the limits of their bodies or go out of their way to locate a perfect recipe. Then there's Eugene Levy.

The "Schitt's Creek" star admits he's not really a fan of the cold or the heat. He doesn't really like eating strange things and, well, insects freak him out. He'd rather stay home, to be honest.

"Not only do I not love traveling, I've got a very low sense of curiosity," he says during an interview. "I do not have an adventurous spirit. And I'm actually thinking, well, aren't those things you need to host a travel show?" Not necessarily, and so welcome, to Apple TV+'s "The Reluctant Traveler," the unlikely wedding of a droll and cautious host with some of the most beautiful places on Earth. During the eight-episode series, Levy swims in a frozen lake in Finland, walks around slot canyons in Utah and explores a rainforest in Costa Rica. He also visits Italy, Japan, the Maldives, Portugal and South Africa, even going on safari and enjoying a gin and tonic as he does.

The more uncomfortable he seems, the funnier the show becomes. "I'm the more Great Indoors type of guy," he jokes to his guide



This image released by Apple TV+ shows actor Eugene Levy, center, in a scene from his new travel series "The Reluctant Traveler," premiering Feb. 24.

in a forest in Costa Rica brimming with thousands of species of animals, what he calls "all those tiny threats to life." While ice fishing in Finland, he notes drily: "Hearty and resilient are two words that have never been used to describe me."

"I'm hoping this appeals to seasoned travelers that might watch this and chuckle," he says later in the interview. "But also to people who, like me, don't travel extensively, are not fond of traveling, don't have that sense of adventure, so to speak that they will see me as a kindred spirit." "The Reluctant Traveler" was initially a show pitched as a way to feature hotels with remarkable views that morphed into one which really shines when Levy leaves them to go into the culture he's visit-

ing and is changed. In Utah, he stays in an elegant property overlooking the Colorado Plateau where rooms go for more than \$3,000 a night but finds a real sense of spirituality visiting his Navajo guide's modest homestead.

"The memorable thing for me, by and large, are the people that I'm running into," Levy says. "I'm hoping that this is one of those shows with a nice kind of different personality." In Finland, Levy rides a snowmobile, goes ice fishing and ice swimming, eats reindeer and attempts husky sledding "How do you say slow down in dog?" he asks and ice swimming. He finds Finns deserve their reputation as some of the happiest people on Earth. "I've never met people that were any happier and

don't know whether being big vodka drinkers has anything to do with it," he jokes. Levy landed the job by trying to talk himself out of it. Executive producer David Brindley recalls he and Apple executive Alison Kirkham were on a phone call trying to lure Levy into hosting a travel show and listening to him explain how he was the wrong man for the job. They were in stitches.

"We all have fears about certain things and we all have things that scare us and we sort of wish that we could do something about them, but we never do. And Eugene has just given himself over to this process," said Brindley.

"And, as a result, maybe he doesn't enjoy absolutely everything that he puts in his mouth or every activity

that goes on, but it's had a positive influence and he's come away a bit of a different person."

The 76-year-old actor with bushy eyebrows and round glasses joins a crowded field of celeb travel hosts, which includes Zac Efron, José Andrés, Chris Hemsworth, Will Smith, Stanley Tucci, Macaulay Culkin and Ewan McGregor.

"There's a lot of travel shows around the world and rightly so. They're gorgeous and they're escapist and they're beautiful," said Brindley, chief creative officer at production house Twofour. "But launching a new one, you want to find something that has a unique selling point, that has the chance to do something a tiny bit different that will just grab people's attention and also that feels relatable."

So in South Africa, viewers will get a kick out of watching Levy nervously reacting to wild animal noises, seeing his first warthog "That is not a pleasant-looking thing!" and playing golf among hippos. He collects a fecal sample from a tranquilized elephant and charmingly bottle feeds a baby rhino.

"That was a very, very cute experience," he says.

To keep Levy fresh, he and his team would visit two locations at a time — spending one week in each — and then break for a few months before reuniting for another set of visits. □

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Spanish artist Rosalía poses in the press room with the awards for album of the year, best alternative music album and best recording package for "Motomami" at the 23rd annual Latin Grammy Awards at the Mandalay Bay Michelob Ultra Arena on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Latin Grammys to be held in Spain, leaving U.S. for 1st time

MADRID (AP) — The next Latin Grammy Awards gala will be held in southern Spain, leaving the United States for the first time, the head of its organization said Wednesday.

Latin Recording Academy CEO Manuel Abud and the regional president for Spain's Andalusia region made the announcement in Seville.

"That the Latin Grammys will leave the United States for the first time is reason for special celebration, and what better place to hold them than Andalusia," Abud said.

Regional president Juan Manuel Moreno said the awards show would be held in November. Neither the specific dates nor the host city were given.

Andalusia is home to popular tourist destinations such as Seville, Granada, Córdoba and Málaga. Moreno said the at the organizers would make the decision.

The Latin Grammys were first held in Los Angeles in 2000. Last year, they took place in Las Vegas, where Spanish artist Rosalía won best album for "Motomami." □

MLS expands playoffs to 9 teams from each conference

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Major League Soccer is expanding its playoffs to include the nine top finishers from each of its two conferences, 62% of the league's teams.

An opening "wild-card" round will feature matches between the eighth- and ninth-seeded teams in the Eastern and Western conferences at the stadium of the higher seed.

The first round will be a best-of-three series, with the top finisher in each conference facing the winner of the wild-card match. The second seed will play the seventh, No. 3 will play No. 6 and No. 4 will play No. 5. The higher seed will host first, with the series moving to the lower seed for the second game, and then back to the higher seed's home, if necessary.

If the first round matches are tied at the end of regulation, the game will go directly to a penalty shootout. The conference semifinals, finals and MLS Cup championship will all be single games, hosted by the higher seed. For the final three rounds, tied matches will go to extra time before



Los Angeles FC celebrates after a win over Austin FC in the MLS playoff Western Conference final soccer match Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022, in Los Angeles.

penalties.

Seattle Sounders coach Brian Schmetzer said Tuesday he hadn't looked closely at the playoff changes so he couldn't comment in detail, but understood that Apple TV+, the league's new broadcaster, wanted more postseason games. However, Schmetzer was clear about wanting playoff games to be single

elimination: "I like one and done. I am a one-and-done type of guy."

LA Galaxy coach Greg Vanney said with the new playoff format, as well as the expanded Leagues Cup competition that included all the MLS and Liga MX teams for the first time, clubs will have a heavier load this season.

"In any of the tournaments,

whether it's Open Cup, or Leagues Cup or you go relatively deep in the playoffs, you're certainly going to be (at) 50-plus games and that type of scenario," Vanney said. "And that's significantly more than what teams, I think, have generally endured. You've seen more from teams that are in Champions League and we have teams in

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Champions League as well so it's a heavy lift."

Philadelphia Union coach Jim Curtin was asked about the possibility of an expanded playoff earlier this month, when reports surfaced that more teams would make the cut. Philadelphia played in the MLS Cup final last season, falling to LAFC on penalties after a 3-3 draw.

"I can say from the last two years, I think they've been two of the most exciting playoff series we've had as a league, and that's the one difficult thing to move away from now," Curtin said. "But this is pro sports, and it's certainly bigger than any team or any silly coach's idea, so whatever happens we'll be prepared."

In the previous format, only the top seven teams from each conference made the playoffs.

The top seeds each had a first-round bye to the conference semifinals.

Decision Day, the final day of the regular season, is set for Oct. 21, with the wild-card round scheduled for Oct. 25-26. The MLS Cup final will be played on Dec. 9. □

Mixed team returns to PGA Tour and LPGA Tour in December

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

PGA Tour and LPGA Tour players will compete for a \$4 million purse on network television as the tournament long known as the Shark Shootout becomes a mixed team event this year with 16 teams.

The tours formally announced the change Wednesday, with Grant Thornton serving as the title sponsor.

The Associated Press first reported the mixed team event in December.

"By joining forces with the PGA Tour to host a mixed event where the top male and female golfers in the world compete alongside each other, we're going to deliver a memorable and entertaining experience for all golf fans, showcas-

ing our players' incredible skills in a new context to a new audience," LPGA Tour Commissioner Mollie Marcoux Samaan said.

"This is an important step forward for golf, women's golf and the LPGA."

The Grant Thornton Invitational will be Dec. 8-10 at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida. Still to be determined is the format for the 16 teams.

The event began in 1989 as the Shark Shootout, and in recent years it has added LPGA Tour players to the field. Other unofficial events, such as the CVS Charity Classic in Rhode Island, also included women.

But this will be the first fully mixed event since the final edition of the JC Penney Classic in 1999 won by John

Daly and Laura Davies. Tiger Woods played one year in the JC Penney Classic with Kelli Kuehne.

Other tours in recent years have had official mixed competitions. At the ISPS Handa Australian Open, men and women competed on the same course at the same time for equal prize money in separate competition. Last year on the European tour, players competed in one competition from different sets of tees. Linn Grant of Sweden became the first woman to win a European tour title at the Scandinavian Mixed.

A mixed event had been on the PGA Tour's radar for the last several years, and there was consideration to make the World Cup a mixed event until the COVID-19 pandemic halted

momentum.

"As we look to capitalize on the growing interest in the game of golf, the addition of a mixed event to the calendar has been a priority," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said.

Grant Thornton, which has a marketing partnership with the PGA Tour, has a roster of corporate ambassadors in golf that includes Rickie Fowler and Tony Finau, and Nelly and Jessica Korda. □



Tony Finau watches his tee shot on the 10th hole during the second round of the Phoenix Open golf tournament Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Associated Press

MLB curtails infield shift, hopes for more singles, speed

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell needed to add some pop to his lineup a couple years ago, so he put a few more big bodies in his four-man infield, sacrificing defensive range for offensive thump.

"They combined for a weight of over 1,000 pounds," Counsell said, laughing.

"I don't think you'll ever see that again."

There's little doubt that hiding a couple bulky sluggers in the infield is going to be more challenging this sea-

son. One of Major League Baseball's most visible rule changes for 2023 is a limitation on infield shifts, which had grown exponentially and are partly to blame for a league-wide batting average drop.

The hope is twofold: One, a few more hits for lefty mashers like Kyle Schwarber or Corey Seager, who were among those hindered by the shift. And two, stress on athleticism and range for those playing defense in the infield.

"I'm sure some guys will like it and some won't," said former Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia, a



Detroit Tigers infielders Javier Baez, left, and Jonathan Schoop, right, work on drills at second base during a spring training baseball workout Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, in Lakeland, Fla.

Associated Press

four-time Gold Glove winner. "You've got to have

range now as an infielder. Got to be able to catch the ball. You've got to be quick.

"It'll be an adjustment for some guys. It'll make other guys better."

Hitters in the big leagues had a .243 batting average last season, the lowest since 1968.

The new rule states that all four infielders must have both feet within the outer boundary of the infield and two infielders must be on each side of second base when a pitch is delivered. MLB also mandated infield dirt have uniform dimensions in all 30 ballparks the outfield edge must be 95 feet from the front of the pitching rubber.

A few hitters notably New York Mets star Jeff McNeil adapted to exploit the gaping holes in the infield shifts with hard-hit balls the other way. Most stuck to their modern, pull-heavy approaches, in part because pitchers strategized to make going to the opposite field difficult even big league hitters struggle to slap an up-and-in 98 mph fastball the other way. Arizona's Josh Rojas, a left-hander hitter, said he wasn't particularly worried about the changes. He views them as just the latest salvo in ongoing pitcher-vs.-hitter battle that's ebbed and flowed for more than a century. □

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